

GCRMN Management Group & Supporters Meeting 12 January 2010

Attendance: see Appendix 1

Time: 18:00-19:30

1. Opening by Chair: Carl Gustaf Lundin welcomed the Management Group and stressed that the main items would be the proposed review and future options for the GCRMN.
2. GCRMN Coordinators Report: Clive Wilkinson provided brief comments on the GCRMN report submitted to the ICRI General Meeting, with emphasis on the Climate Change and Coral Reefs brochure launched in Copenhagen (Carl Lundin indicated that there are many copies of the Brochure for distribution from Sweden), the Catchment Management and Coral Reefs proposed publication which continue with collection of case studies and finalisation of the text, and the Reefs @ Risk Revised reports in association with the World Resources Institute. IUCN and CRISP offered case studies.
3. GCRMN Socioeconomic Monitoring Initiative Report: this was postponed as Christy Loper was not in attendance but has provided notes.
4. Reef Check report: Since Gregor Hodgson was not present, the meeting was advised of the Reef Check report submitted to the ICRI General Meeting.
5. Role, structure and future of the GCRMN. Carl Lundin and Clive Wilkinson summarised the current situation and emphasised that there is a need for decisions to be made on the options proposed by the Coordinator in the discussion paper prepared in April 2009 and revised for this meeting. The framework included a continuation of the current situation, to a more distributed network of 4 regional coordinators assisted by a global coordinator. The discussion can be summarized as four major initiatives for GCRMN:
 - Shift the focus to the regions and provide a supportive framework for global coordination
 - Future Outlook added to reporting
 - Thematic reports on a regular basis
 - Communication Strategy

Regional Focus

Reporting on a global scale will remain at the same frequency, however, the scale of the reporting may be reduced in favor of focused regional reports that include a future outlook. Indeed, a cut down version of the global report can work as the model for the regional reports. The reports will continue to be ICRI products but will also include thematic reports on a regular frequency. The global report as mentioned above will continue since the change in the data is what grabs the media attention.

Reporting will be based primarily on 4 regions, on a rotational basis and with a regional institution having an overall coordination role:

- Wider Pacific (Eric Clua indicated that France would seriously consider requests to host coordination within in the Wider Pacific; with support from NOAA, R@R/ReefCheck, GCRMN).
- Wider Caribbean (Angelique Brathwaite also indicated that the Government of Barbados would consider proposals for the Wider Caribbean)
- Indian Ocean (Discussion on regional coordination to involve key GCRMN collaborators such as CORDIO, the Regional Seas, the South Asia and Western Indian Ocean Coral Reef Task Forces, GCRMN national nodes and others)
- Southeast and East Asia (Discussion on regional coordination to involve e.g. exiting GCRMN nodes, the ICRI East Asia MPA Network Working Group)

For any distributed network to function, it would require that three conditions be met: regional host institutions with a strong interest in the GCRMN; that the institutions be willing to host a part time regional coordinator acceptable to the Network; and sufficient funds to add to the regional coordinator salary as compensation for time dedicated to the GCRMN and the reporting process. It was acknowledged that the

demands on the regional coordinators will vary depending on the stage of the reporting cycle, however, a certain level of activity will need to be maintained to ensure the long-term interest of the host institutions.

Funds will be focused in a region at a time so that there are sufficient resources to ensure

- Capacity is built, including universities, NGOs and research institutes
- Policy makers are engaged, which is reinforced by having the outlook focus, and strengthens the link with Regional Seas
- Monitoring in the year of reporting is substantive/science based
- Further development of nodes within a region as needed

The role of regional coordinators will include facilitation of and participation in these activities. It was acknowledged that bridging funding for the other regions will be needed albeit at a different level to ensure some continuity and to maintain momentum and interest during the reporting cycle.

Overall coordination will require a transition period ending at the Samoa ICRI GM, with IUCN providing the transition from Clive to ensure that outstanding work is completed and assist the Pacific in undertaking the reporting process during 2010. The roles of the regional and overall coordinators need to be developed, along with a long-term cost-effective option for overall coordination. This can in part be based on the amended Terms of Reference for GCRMN as discussed by the Management Group during 2008. This can be re-visited some time into the transition process. It was suggested that a group of “critical friends” composed of non-salaried experts interested in ICRI products be formed to provide advice/comments as needed.

Future Outlook

By focusing on reporting on what the trends are indicating for the future and what impact that will have on ecosystem services as well as economies/livelihoods there is higher potential to engage the beneficiaries of the reports, from the initial stages to the dissemination of the information. This will also involve some capacity building but the benefits are wider than just coral reefs as this outlook approach is used in other areas including climate change adaptation. Some sort of report card could be considered. GBRMPA provides one good model for outlook reporting and may be in a position to provide technical support.

Thematic Reports:

Possible themes include (in addition to the Catchment Management and Coral Reefs report in prep):

- Coral Reefs & Acidification
- Coral Diseases (e.g. with CRTR collaborators)
- Coral Reef & Adaptation Tools/Cases Studies
- Coral Reefs & Shifting Baselines (Jeremy Jackson has been approached)
- Marine Invasive Species (possible contributors include GloBallast, IUCN, Dave Gulko)

Communication Strategy

The development of a more comprehensive communication strategy was viewed as important to increase the impact of GCRMN and its products. UNEP offered to coordinate a consultancy for a communication strategy (15-25K) to provide guidance on ICRI branding and how to best disseminate report findings/engage policy makers regionally and other target audiences. UNEP will circulate draft TOR to the Management Group and the ICRI Secretariat for comment and work with them on selecting the consultants. Additional organizations may be engaged as possible and appropriate (e.g. Sea Web).

6. Next GCRMN Global or Regional reports: Decision on this issue was postponed subject to negotiations with key partners. It was tentatively agreed that a regional status and outlook report focusing on the Pacific would be prepared and launched late 2010 in association with the ICRI GM in Samoa. Eric Clua indicated that CRISP could take a key role in compiling the report.

Carl Gustaf Lundin, IUCN, Chair
Clive Wilkinson, GCRMN, Global Coordinator

Appendix 1: List of attendees

Carl Gustaf Lundin, IUCN, Chair;
Jackie Alder, UNEP;
Nicola Barnard, ICRAN;
Angelique Brathwaite Barbados;
Lauretta Burke WRI, USA;
Eric Clua, CRISP & ICRI;
Christine Dawson, Dept of State, USA;
Scot Frew, NOAA, USA;
Charlotte Gobin ICRI Secretariat, France;
Loureene Jones Jamaica;
Margaret Johnson, GBRMPA Australia;
Mohammed Kotb PERSGA, Saudi Arabia;
Kelly Milton, Dept of State, USA;
Judith Nyunja, Kenya;
Beatrice Padovan Ferreira, Brazil;
Russell Reichelt, GBRMPA Australia;
Jerker Tamelander IUCN;
Ruben Torres, Reef Check Dominican Republic;
R. Venkatesan, SACEP
Jean Wiener Haiti;
Clive Wilkinson, GCRMN;
Terri Young, UNEP-WCMC
Francis Staub, ICRI Sec, France